



Employment Labor Market Information Bulletin

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The Number of Jobs in Rhode Island is up by 2,400 Over the Year

The Unemployment Rate

Rhode Island's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for January was unchanged from December's revised figure of 5.0 percent. The number of unemployed Rhode Island residents held steady at 25,100 from December to January. A year ago January, the unemployment rate was 4.2 percent and the number of jobless Rhode Islanders stood at 21,400. The unemployment rate for the nation edged down 0.2 of a percentage point in January to 5.6 percent. Rhode Island's unemployment rate remained below the national average for the sixth straight month.

"With the release of the January labor force estimates, Rhode Island's historical labor force series reflect some changes due to the annual benchmark revision process," said DLT Director Dr. Lee H. Arnold. "As a result, Rhode Island's unemployment rates were revised upwards for most of 2001, peaking with a 5.0 percent rate in December. In general, the number of residents employed was lower than originally estimated in 2001, while the number of unemployed was somewhat higher for most months than previously estimated. January's unemployment rate showed no change from December." (Continued on Page 4)

Rhode Island Unemployment Insurance Division Steps Into E-Government

The Unemployment Insurance Division has completed a project that allows unemployment claims, both new and refiles, to be filed over the Internet. If an individual has worked in Rhode Island for a public or private employer, lives in Rhode Island after serving time in the military, or has worked for the Federal Government in Rhode Island, he/she can utilize the State Portal Web site at www.ri.gov or the Department of Labor & Training web site at www.dlt.state.ri.us and link to the www.uicclaims.state.ri.us web site. (Continued on Page 4)

Business to Business Expo 2002! Tuesday April 9th & Wednesday April 10th

Expo 2002 is a "must" event for business leaders who want to expand their market, enlarge their network and refine their management skills...not to mention unite to heighten confidence in our local business community! This annual sell-out event will feature:

- ◆ More than 20,000 business professionals in attendance over the course of 2 days
- ◆ 400 business exhibitors
- ◆ More than 80 free professional development seminars
- ◆ Special events including the Providence Chamber of Commerce's Annual Economic Outlook Luncheon
- ◆ Demonstrations of the latest trends in technology to keep you on the cutting edge

Business Expo traditionally features the most visible names on the American lecture circuit. Past speakers include former General and now Secretary of State Colin Powell, General Norman Schwarzkopf, and Tim Russert of NBC news.

This year will be no exception. Tom Brokaw, anchor, NBC Nightly News; Andrea Mitchell, chief foreign affairs correspondent, NBC News; and Knight Kiplinger, editor-in-chief, Kiplinger Letter; will all be featured speakers, sharing their knowledge and insight with the attendees.

netWORKri will be well represented by the Department of Human Services (booth 705), the Office of Rehabilitative Services (booth 707) and the Department of Labor and Training (booth 709). Stop in to any of the exhibits to learn more about how netWORKri can assist you or your organization.

Hours for the Expo are Tuesday, April 9th from 10:00am - 7:00pm and Wednesday, April 10th from 10:00am - 5:00pm. For more information and a listing of seminars and booth locations, call the Providence Chamber of Commerce at (401) 521-5000.

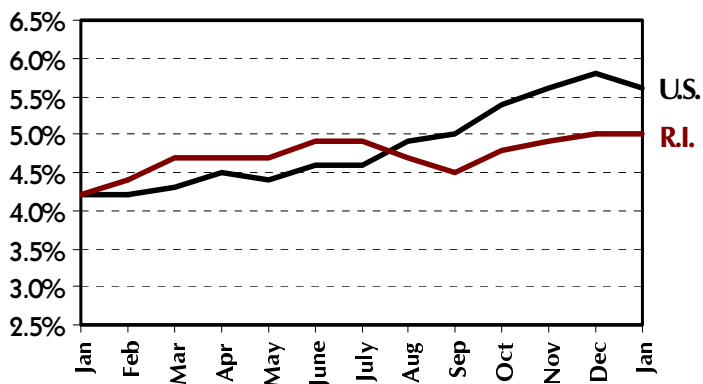
Rhode Island Labor Force Statistics* (in thousands)

	Unadjusted			Seasonally Adjusted		
	Jan 02	Dec 01	Jan 01	Jan 02	Dec 01	Jan 01
Civilian Labor Force	502.5	506.3	499.2	507.5	501.8	504.3
Resident Employment	473.2	483.3	473.6	482.4	476.7	482.9
Unemployment	29.3	23.0	25.6	25.1	25.1	21.4
Unemployment Rate	5.8%	4.6%	5.1%	5.0%	5.0%	4.2%

United States Labor Force Statistics (in thousands)

	Unadjusted			Seasonally Adjusted		
	Jan 02	Dec 01	Jan 01	Jan 02	Dec 01	Jan 01
Civilian Labor Force	141,074	141,912	141,049	141,390	142,314	141,757
Resident Employment	132,139	134,235	134,462	133,468	134,055	135,870
Unemployment	8,935	7,678	6,587	7,922	8,259	5,887
Unemployment Rate	6.3%	5.4%	4.7%	5.6%	5.8%	4.2%

Rhode Island & United States Unemployment Rates Seasonally Adjusted 2001 - 2002



City & Town Unadjusted Unemployment Rates

	Jan 02	Jan 01
Barrington	3.4	2.8
Bristol	4.7	4.3
Burrillville	5.9	4.9
Central Falls	8.5	8.0
Charlestown	7.0	7.7
Coventry	5.3	5.2
Cranston	5.1	4.7
Cumberland	5.6	4.3
East Greenwich	5.3	5.0
East Providence	6.4	5.5
Exeter	5.3	5.1
Foster	6.9	5.5
Glocester	4.6	4.1
Hopkinton	3.8	4.0
Jamestown	4.3	4.5
Johnston	5.9	5.8
Lincoln	5.6	4.2
Little Compton	5.9	4.9
Middletown	4.9	4.8
Narragansett	3.4	2.8
New Shoreham	15.7	19.3
Newport	5.9	6.2
North Kingstown	4.4	3.8
North Providence	5.1	5.1
North Smithfield	4.7	4.3
Pawtucket	7.4	5.9
Portsmouth	4.3	4.5
Providence	7.5	6.3
Richmond	3.3	1.7
Scituate	5.8	4.7
Smithfield	5.1	4.0
South Kingstown	4.3	4.2
Tiverton	6.4	6.2
Warren	6.0	4.7
Warwick	5.1	4.5
West Greenwich	6.4	4.9
West Warwick	5.8	5.9
Westerly	4.4	4.3
Woonsocket	7.7	5.8
State of R.I.	5.8	5.1

Unemployment Insurance Claims Activity

	Jan	Dec	Jan	% Change		Annual Comparison		
	2002	2001	2001	Dec 01	Jan 01	2001	2000	% Change
Initial Claims	9,029	16,546	11,397	-45.4%	-20.8%	99,594	84,767	17.5%
Number of Payments	76,297	61,639	64,322	23.8%	18.6%	640,088	536,649	19.3%
Amount of Payments (gross millions)	\$22.7	\$18.1	\$18.0	25.2%	25.7%	\$180.9	\$138.4	30.7%
Exhaustions (Final Payments)	1,441	1,384	1,116	4.1%	29.1%	13,579	12,501	8.6%
E.S. Fund Balance (millions)	\$260.3	\$277.9	\$280.6	-6.3%	-7.2%			

*Current month figures are preliminary; prior month and year are revised. Totals may not add due to rounding.

Labor Force statistics are compiled by Labor Market Information, in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Dept. of Labor.

For additional information, comments or suggestions, contact

Labor Market Information, Phone (401)462-8740, Fax: (401)462-8766, www.dlt.state.ri.us/lmi

Benchmarking

"What the Annual Revision Means"

The establishment employment estimates, published in the Employment Bulletin, are derived from a monthly sample survey of employers in Rhode Island. Employment data are collected for the pay period which includes the twelfth of the month. Once a year, the establishment employment series are **benchmarked**, or revised, using figures from Unemployment Insurance tax records filed quarterly by nearly all employers in the State. A benchmark is a reasonably complete count of the number of employees in an industry at a specific point in time. The benchmark sets the level, while the sample estimates the month-to-month change from that level.

The use of a total count, or benchmark, allows the sample survey to be adjusted for new businesses, expansion or contraction in existing businesses, and changes that occur in industry classifications not captured in the survey

The March 2001 benchmark employment level replaced the March 2001 sample-based estimate. The employment estimates for April 2000 through March 2001 have been revised based on this benchmark level. Establishment employment estimates were then recalculated for the remainder of the year, following the March 2001 reference month. With the release of the January 2002 estimates, the published establishment employment series for calendar years 2000 and 2001 reflect the revised figures.

Total Establishment Employment in Rhode Island**

	Employment (in thousands)			Net Change From	
	Jan 02	Dec 01	Jan 01	Dec 01	Jan 01
TOTAL EMPLOYMENT	469.1	484.2	466.7	-15100	2400
GOODS PRODUCING	84.4	86.8	89.0	-2400	-4600
Contract Construction	16.6	18.3	16.3	-1700	300
Manufacturing	67.8	68.5	72.7	-700	-4900
SERVICE PRODUCING	384.7	397.4	377.7	-12700	7000
Trans. & Public Utilities	16.9	17.2	16.9	-300	-----
Trade (Wholesale & Retail)	105.0	110.4	104.1	-5400	900
Wholesale	18.4	18.7	18.5	-300	-100
Durables*	11.3	11.4	11.6	-100	-300
Nondurables*	7.1	7.3	7.0	-200	100
Retail	86.6	91.7	85.6	-5100	1000
Building & Garden Supplies*	2.6	2.6	2.1	-----	500
General Merchandise	6.3	7.3	7.2	-1000	-900
Food Stores*	15.3	15.6	15.5	-300	-200
Automotive Dealers	7.8	7.9	7.5	-100	300
Apparel & Accessory Stores	4.8	5.5	4.8	-700	-----
Furn., Home Furn., & Equipt.*	3.0	3.1	2.8	-100	200
Eating and Drinking Places	30.3	32.0	29.1	-1700	1200
Miscellaneous Retail	16.4	17.7	16.4	-1300	-----
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	33.2	33.0	31.9	200	1300
Depository Institutions	9.5	9.4	9.3	100	200
Services	164.1	171.0	159.3	-6900	4800
Hotels & Other Lodging*	3.8	4.1	3.5	-300	300
Business Services	24.7	27.0	27.3	-2300	-2600
Auto & Misc. Repair*	5.6	5.7	5.5	-100	100
Amusement & Recreation	4.8	5.5	4.5	-700	300
Health Services	53.1	53.1	51.6	-----	1500
Educational Services	17.9	19.9	17.6	-2000	300
Social Services	16.6	16.6	16.1	-----	500
Government	65.5	65.8	65.5	-300	-----
Federal	10.3	10.3	10.4	-----	-100
State	18.3	18.3	18.2	-----	100
Local	36.9	37.2	36.9	-300	-----
Education*	24.6	24.9	24.5	-300	100
Non Education*	12.3	12.4	12.4	-100	-100

* Publication of these industries is not approved by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS)

Establishment Employment, Hours and Earnings in Manufacturing Industries in Rhode Island

	EMPLOYMENT (in thousands)					PRODUCTION-WORKER AVERAGES					
	Net Change					Weekly Hours			Hourly Earnings		
	Jan 02	Dec 01	Jan 01	Dec 01	Jan 01	Jan 02	Dec 01	Jan 01	Jan 02	Dec 01	Jan 01
MANUFACTURING	67.8	68.5	72.7	-700	-4900	39.7	41.1	40.0	12.30	12.32	12.20
DURABLE MFG.	44.2	44.9	48.3	-700	-4100	40.1	40.6	40.1	12.13	12.18	11.98
Primary Metals	3.5	3.4	3.8	100	-300	40.8	41.7	41.2	12.89	12.88	12.92
Fabricated Metals	7.5	7.6	8.6	-100	-1100	39.2	40.0	38.7	11.79	12.13	11.34
Nonelectrical Machinery	3.6	3.7	4.5	-100	-900	39.4	41.3	41.9	13.75	13.75	13.61
Electrical Machinery	5.0	5.0	5.7	-----	-700	41.0	41.3	41.0	11.53	11.49	11.60
Trans. Equipment	3.9	3.9	3.4	-----	500	41.8	40.2	42.3	14.47	14.53	14.44
Instruments	5.2	5.3	5.5	-100	-300	39.2	41.2	39.6	12.77	12.80	12.77
Miscellaneous Mfg.	12.0	12.4	12.9	-400	-900	39.4	39.6	39.3	10.74	10.71	10.69
Jewelry, Incl. Costume	8.9	9.3	9.8	-400	-900	39.2	39.3	39.1	10.52	10.49	10.51
All Other Durables	3.5	3.6	3.9	-100	-400	41.6	42.7	39.9	12.51	12.52	12.00
NONDURABLE MFG.	23.6	23.6	24.4	-----	-800	39.2	41.9	39.7	12.60	12.56	12.62
Textiles	5.5	5.5	6.0	-----	-500	37.8	40.8	39.5	10.82	10.66	10.86
Printing-Publishing	5.1	5.0	5.3	100	-200	39.3	42.9	40.9	16.62	16.69	16.70
Rubber & Plastic Products	4.4	4.4	4.6	-----	-200	39.4	40.2	39.2	13.32	13.31	13.16
All Other Nondurables	8.6	8.7	8.5	-100	100	40.1	43.0	39.6	11.71	11.72	11.68

**Current month figures are PRELIMINARY. Prior month & year are REVISED. Totals may not add due to rounding.
Farmers, Self-employed, Domestic & Armed Services personnel are excluded from Establishment Employment figures.

The Number of Jobs in Rhode Island is up by 2,400 Over the Year (Continued from Page 1)

Rhode Island Job Highlights (Over the Year, Unadjusted Figures)

Jobs at Rhode Island businesses numbered 469,100 in January 2002, up 2,400 (+0.5%) from the 466,700 jobs reported last year. This is the smallest annual January gain experienced since 1996. Employment gains in Services (+4,800), Finance, Insurance and Real Estate (+1,300), Trade (+900) and Contract Construction (+300) offset a 4,900 decline in Manufacturing. Within the Services sector, a 2,600 decline in Business Services was offset by increases in the other sector components, the largest occurring in the "Other Services" (+4,700) component. This designation includes Engineering Services, Accounting Services, Membership Organizations, Landscape Services and unclassified employers. A substantial increase was also reported in Health Services (+1,500). Within the Trade sector, the largest gains were reported in Restaurants (+1,200) and Building and Garden Supplies (+500). These increases overshadowed a 900 job loss in General Merchandise Stores. Job losses were recorded in nearly all Manufacturing industries with the largest occurring in Fabricated Metals (-1,100), Nonelectrical Machinery (-900) Jewelry/Silverware (-900) and Electrical Machinery (-700). In contrast, employment in Transportation Equipment was up 500 over the year.

Rhode Island Job Highlights (Over the Month, Unadjusted Figures)

The number of jobs in Rhode Island decreased by 15,100 over the month, largely the result of expected seasonal reductions in Services (-6,900), Trade (-5,400) and Contract Construction (-1,700).

Services – The Services sector declined by 6,900 jobs over the month as a result of seasonal losses in several industries. Employment at private educational institutions was down 2,000 due to winter break in area colleges. Business Services posted a drop of 2,300, mostly due to decreased employment among temporary help agencies. Employment continued to decline in vacation-related industries as Hotels/Lodging and Amusement/Recreation trimmed their payrolls by 300 and 700 jobs, respectively.

Trade – Trade reported a net loss of 5,400 jobs over the month due to seasonal losses in Retail Trade. All components of Retail Trade experienced some seasonal decreases over the month with the largest occurring in Restaurants (-1,700), Miscellaneous Retail Stores (-1,300), General Merchandise Stores (-1,000) and Apparel & Accessory Stores (-700).

Manufacturing – Manufacturing employment showed a net loss of 700 jobs over the month as Jewelry/Silverware reported a decline of 400 jobs.

Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers

	Jan 02	Dec 01	Jan 01	% Change Prev. Year
All Items	177.1	176.7	175.1	1.1%

Source: U.S. Dept. of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

Finance Insurance and Real Estate - Finance, Insurance and Real Estate employment increased by 200 over the month.

Contract Construction – The Construction industry trimmed its payrolls by 1,700 jobs, due to seasonal declines reported in Special Trade Contractors (-1,100) and Heavy Construction (-400).

Government – Local Government employment posted a drop of 300 over the month due to seasonal declines in Public Education.

Transportation and Public Utilities – Employment in Transportation and Public Utilities was down 300 over the month.

Rhode Island Unemployment Insurance Division Steps Into E-Government (Continued from Page 1)

The process takes about five minutes to file the claim. Unemployed workers should have their social security number, employer's name, address, dates of employment, and, if they are a registered alien, their alien registration number. Instructions on the web page help the unemployed worker file the claim. In approximately five days the worker will receive additional information through the mail about his/her claim.

Customers may file their claim on-line 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. In order to protect confidentiality, no employer or employee specific information is given to those filing a claim. When all web pages are completed, a confirmation number is issued to verify that the claim was filed.

Internet claims filing was started on September 10, 2001. Claimants have found the system to be "customer friendly" and an ideal alternative to filing by telephone. The Unemployment Insurance Division is looking to add additional Unemployment Insurance applications on the Internet to better serve the public, both employer and worker.